

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES, SOUTH-SOUTH SOLUTIONS

E-newsletter of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in UNDP



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1) African Infrastructure Dreams Back on Agenda

Africa's patchy infrastructure is not keeping pace with the continent's economic growth.

Satellite photos of Africa at night show a place where light is concentrated overwhelmingly in the South - primarily South Africa - and in the North, with a sprinkling of lights on the west and east coasts
(<http://geology.com/articles/satellite-photo-earth-at-night.shtml>).

This is just one visually arresting way to view the much larger problem of the continent lacking 21st-century infrastructure - from roads to airports to sewage and water services to harbors and rail connections. All are in desperate need of an upgrade.

The World Bank says only one in four people has access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), the region will require more than US \$300 billion in investment to achieve universal electricity access by 2030.

This lack of modern infrastructure is clashing with Africa's impressive economic growth in recent years. The continent will be home to seven of the 10 fastest growing economies in the world by 2015, according to the IMF. Yet still too much of this is a reflection of a booming resource economy, which sounds impressive in numbers, but still leaves much of the continent's population living in a day-to-day world of underdevelopment and poverty.

Africa desperately needs further investment in infrastructure. The good news is that a mix of positive developments is coming together to breathe life into efforts to upgrade the continent.

One is a new campaign to mobilize Africa's wealthiest to stump up the necessary funds to conduct feasibility studies to lay the groundwork for a big boost to infrastructure spending in the coming years. Another is a flurry of new pledges from the United States to spend more in Africa to increase access to energy - a necessary precondition to improvements to living standards.

China, too, is to continue to grow its already substantial investments in Africa. For innovators, better infrastructure across Africa will make it easier to export products, connect with markets and customers and gain access to new technologies and products available to others around the world.

The Made in Africa Foundation (madeinafricafoundation.co.uk) hopes to turn to Africa's wealthy global community to help with funding the feasibility studies required to unleash a new wave of infrastructure spending and building across the continent.

Africa takes up 30 million square kilometers (UNEP), is home to approximately 15 per cent of the world's population and has 60 per cent of the world's potential agricultural land. Yet, just 34 per cent of Africa can be reached by road and only 30 per cent has access to electricity. One estimate has placed the cost of meeting Africa's power and transport needs at US \$28 trillion by 2050.

That is a vast amount of money, and nobody will commit those sums unless they know that work has gone into planning for this infrastructure and that

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people are thinking long-term. This is where the Made in Africa Foundation wants to make a difference: it is hoping to get Africa's wealthy to contribute US \$400 million to fund feasibility studies which in turn will kick-off a US \$68 billion first phase in investment into roads, railways, ports and energy.

"In 2009, there was (US) \$150bn (billion) available to spend, but no bankable infrastructure projects in Africa," that these funds could be directed towards, said the Foundation's George Brennan. "These figures should make us angry - the problem is not the availability of funding but the fact that projects are not in a condition to be funded."

Just as a global diaspora of Indians and Chinese have been instrumental in economic growth and development in India and China in the past two decades, so it is hoped the same formula can be applied to the equally substantial, successful and wealthy African diaspora.

"African Americans spend (US) \$1 trillion every year in their economy, but what do they spend on Africa? About 0.01 percent," said Chris Cleverly, Director of the Made in Africa Foundation. "They have the wherewithal to make profound differences - personally, and by lobbying their pension funds, investment advisers and government to invest in Africa on the basis that it provides good returns."

"It was China and India's diasporas that developed them - it is the same with Africa's now." Ozwald Boateng (<http://ozwaldboateng.co.uk>), the dynamic Ghanaian-descended London tailor who built his reputation on a quirky and modern take on traditional British bespoke suits, took the lead along with the Ugandan Prince Hassan Kimbugwe (<http://www.cdrex.com/prince-hassan-kimbugwe/1251509.html>) and former British barrister Chris Cleverly.

Boateng's reputation and fame rose alongside the buzzing British capital throughout the 2000s. But now he is reaching back to Africa to lead a campaign to substantially raise the level of investment in the continent's creaking, antiquated or non-existent infrastructure.

He is trying to rally Africa's wealthiest business leaders to contribute to creating a 21st-century African infrastructure of roads, railways, ports and power supplies. Made in Africa is tackling the fact many big global investors are willing to invest in Africa but find it difficult to do so. Much has to be done before an investor can come along and start, for example, building a new road network or airport. Local governments need to do the initial site survey and environmental impact studies and develop a larger vision for where they would like their country to go and how its cities are to develop.

The campaign got underway with a star-studded gala event earlier this year in Marrakech, Morocco, at the African Banker Awards (http://www.ic-events.net/awards/african_banker_awards_2013/). It also comes with a film, Our Future, Made in Africa, to help explain the campaign and the company.

Some of the people who attended included Nigerian philanthropist Tony Elumelu, Angola's richest woman Isabel dos Santos and Sudanese telecoms mogul Mo Ibrahim.

"This is the start of fully understanding what Africa can do for itself," said Boateng. "The Chinese managed to build a railway across China; the Japanese have the bullet train - we need to get past thinking about why it's difficult to create the roads and railways that Africa needs and just get on with it."

The Foundation is being supported by the African Development Bank (<http://www.afdb.org/en/>), a long-time supporter of African infrastructure investment through loans and technical assistance.

An additional boost to African development comes from a recent U.S. government pledge to spend US \$7 billion over the next five years in Africa to improve access to energy. Energy is the needed fuel for any significant improvements to human development over the long-term.

U.S. President Barack Obama announced "Power Africa" (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/06/30/fact-sheet-power-africa>) while he was in Cape Town, South Africa on his recent African tour. At the heart of Power Africa is the pledge to double access to power in Africa. According to medical journal The Lancet, 3.5 million Africans die every year due to indoor air pollution - a figure larger than those who die every year from malaria and HIV/AIDS combined. The pollution results from the fumes caused by burning fuel for cooking, warmth and light.

President Obama promised the funding to help governments in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria and Tanzania. The funds will be used to boost access to electricity for 20 million households. Funds will also be used to help Angola and Mozambique modernize their energy export sectors.

Power Africa will act as a go-between to encourage links and deals between American energy companies and African partners.

On top of this, Power Africa is being supplemented by an additional US \$10 billion in private sector contributions, including a commitment from the General Electric Company to bring 5,000 megawatts of affordable energy to Tanzania and Ghana.

In total, the US estimates it will take US \$300 billion in additional funds to bring full power to sub-Saharan Africa. For the past decade, the biggest change in Africa's infrastructure story has come from the growing role played by China. China has become Africa's largest single trading partner, with bilateral trade reaching US \$166 billion in

2011 - a jump of 33 per cent from 2010. The total volume was valued at \$198.5 billion in 2012 and is expected to surpass \$380 billion by 2015.

And much, much more has been promised to come: China's President Xi Jinping (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xi_Jinping) renewed a pledge to offer US \$20 billion in loans to Africa in March 2013 (Reuters). Much of this is going to electricity-generation projects.

LINKS:

- 1) China in Africa: The Real Story is a blog tracking the relationship and digging up the real numbers on what is happening. **Website:** <http://www.chinaafricarealstory.com/>
- 2) The China-Africa Development Fund (CADFund) will invest US \$2.4 billion in African projects, according to its President Chi Jianxin. **Website:** <http://www.cadfund.com/en/>
- 3) Map of Africa's major infrastructure: The image shows how infrastructure in Africa is growing rapidly, but is still largely concentrated in coastal regions and those with large mineral deposits. This means that rural and isolated populations often do not have access to modern energy and the benefits that it can bring. **Website:** <http://www.one.org/us/2011/05/10/map-of-africas-major-infrastructure/>
- 4) Dead Aid by Dambisa Moyo. In the past 50 years, more than US \$1 trillion in development-related aid has been transferred from rich countries to Africa. **Website:** <http://www.dambisamoyo.com/books-and-publications/book/dead-aid>

2) Mobile Phone Microscopes to Revolutionize Health Diagnostics

Mobile phone usage has increased hugely across the global South in the past five years. In Africa, the number of mobile phone subscribers reached 545 million in 2013, while there are 3.5 billion mobile phone users in Asia and the Pacific (ITU). Some 93 million people in Africa and 895 million in Asia and the Pacific have mobile phone Internet access (ITU).

"Every day we are moving closer to having almost as many mobile-cellular subscriptions as people on earth," Brahim Sanou, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau, wrote in its latest report on their growth.

The number of mobile phone subscriptions in the developing world has surpassed 5 billion and the number in the world as a whole reached 6.8 billion in 2013 (ITU), out of a world population of more than 7.1 billion. This compares to considerably lower numbers of people with access to the Internet: 2.7 billion in the world (ITU).

While many people in poorer countries have basic versions of mobile phones, the next generation of smartphones has been growing in number as prices come down (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smartphone>). Examples of these smart phones include the BlackBerry, Apple's iPhone, the Samsung Galaxy, and the Nokia Lumia. Smartphones tend to have enormous computing power and an ability to run complex 'apps' or applications - including public transport options, maps, restaurant and store locators, banking services and market information and resources. They can also access the Internet through Wi-Fi, and have camera and video capability.

What people can do with these feature-packed phones is limited by little other than human imagination. With the ability to store large amounts of data and images, using apps that perform a limitless range of services and tasks, smartphones can be deployed as powerful tools to tackle problems.

Science fiction sagas have long fantasized about people being able to walk around with small electronic devices that can do immensely powerful tasks, including being a medical diagnostic tool. But this science fiction dream is rapidly becoming reality in the global South.

Various initiatives and innovators are using mobile phones and smartphones to conduct medical diagnosis and gather data for medical studies in real time.

Some innovations are even turning smartphones into mobile microscopes.

Developed by the University of California, Berkeley in the lab of Professor Daniel Fletcher (<http://cellscope.berkeley.edu/>), the CellScope (cellscope.com) is capable of turning the camera on a cell (mobile) phone into a diagnostic microscope with a magnification of 5x to 60x. Fletcher's lab has also pioneered work on needle-free injection technology.

The CellScope can be used for ocular imaging (technologies for visualizing and assessing a range of diseases of the eye) and for detecting tuberculosis, blood-borne diseases and parasitic worms. Fletcher is a bioengineer and was impressed with how much mobile phone technology has proliferated across the global South.

"You don't have to put in these copper wires (for phone lines) anymore; you have the (cell) towers. It's big business," Fletcher told The Scientist Magazine.

"It's leaping over the need for infrastructure."

Fletcher and his colleagues experimented by attaching extra lenses to smartphones. They then used the phone to image cells that had been stained with fluorescent dyes to make them easier to see. The quality of the image was so good, they were able to diagnose malaria from blood samples and tuberculosis from sputum (spit) samples. With the addition of image analyzing software, the phone was able to automatically count the number of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* bacilli. They were trying to prove you did not need conventional microscopes to do this sort of diagnostic work.

Fletcher and his colleagues are currently trialing the technology in Vietnam, India, Cameroon and Thailand. "Technology alone doesn't create effective health care," Fletcher emphasizes. "It's got to be part of a context in which the information is captured and validated and is analyzed in the right way, and treatments are then available in response to information."

Another group from Toronto General Hospital in Canada (<http://www.uhn.ca/corporate/AboutUHN/OurHospitals/Pages/TGH.aspx>) has 'hacked' an iPhone smartphone by placing a 1 millimeter ball lens on the phone's camera. Isaac Bogoch, an infectious disease specialist, had been investigating parasitic worm infections in children on Pemba Island off the coast of Tanzania. Along with Jason Andrews of Massachusetts General Hospital, they had been inspired by a report about how a team of researchers from the University of California, Davis had created a simple microscope out of an iPhone with a 1 millimeter lens. This makeshift microscope was used to take pictures of blood smears at a 350 times magnification and giving a 1.5 micron resolution.

"We thought that was a great idea," Bogoch told The Scientist Magazine. Bogoch regularly works as part of an international team around the world, often in remote locations.

"We thought ... we could take it to the field and see if it accurately works in a more real-world setting." Inspired, Bogoch got together with his colleagues and created a similar microscope with a 3 millimeter ball lens and then got to work using it to identify soil-transmitted helminth eggs in stool samples in Tanzania. When examining the stool samples of 199 children in a clinical trial using the makeshift microscope, they were able to accurately identify helminth infections in 70 per cent of the cases. They also found the iPhone microscope did very well at spotting eggs of particular parasites, such as 80 per cent of *Ascaris lumbricoides* infections (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ascaris_lumbricoides). The success rate dropped significantly, however, when trying to detect whipworm parasites (just over half) and hookworm infections (14 per cent).

But this is early days and an experiment: "Obviously the results aren't perfect and there's definitely room for improvement," Bogoch admits.

What stands out is the potential to completely revolutionize health care by continuing to develop the capability of smartphones. With their portability and low cost, they also have the advantage of not needing a trained physician to operate them, according to David Walker, president of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, in The Scientist Magazine.

One of the many advantages of combining a microscope with a digital smartphone is the ability to take a picture and send it straight away to someone to make a diagnosis.

Even more exciting, Sebastian Wachsmann-Hogiu at the University of California, Davis (<http://cbst.ucdavis.edu/people/sebastian/>) is adapting mobile phones to undertake spectroscopy (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spectroscopy>), using diagnostic test software to analyze samples on the spot. This, when successful, would be akin to the capabilities first mooted in the science fiction television and film series Star Trek (startrek.com). In Star Trek, the doctor is able to use a small handheld digital device to quickly diagnose what ails somebody.

The potential for this technology in the global South is significant. Aydogan Ozcan at the University of California, Los Angeles, who is also working on mobile phone microscopes, believes this is as significant as the dawn of the personal computer: "If you look at the early computers, they were bulky, they were extremely expensive," he says.

But now computers "are portable ... and almost anyone can afford them. The same thing is going on today (with microscopy). We are miniaturizing our micro- and nano-analysis tools. We're making them more affordable; we're making them more powerful."

It looks like this science fiction dream will soon become today's reality.

LINKS:

- 1) World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database. **Website:** <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/stat/default.aspx>
- 2) HealthMap: HealthMap was founded in 2006 by a team of researchers, epidemiologists and software developers at Boston Children's Hospital. It is an established global leader in utilizing online informal sources for disease outbreak monitoring and real-time surveillance of emerging public health threats. **Website:** <http://www.healthmap.org/en/>

- 3) A home-made portable microscope: A design developed in the 1970s by Chinese students who fashioned a microscope from a plastic bottle. **Website:** <http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/mag/indexmag.html?http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/mag/artjul00/awscope.html>
- 4) Ways to make simple homemade microscope lenses. **Website:** <http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/mag/indexmag.html?http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/mag/artoct07/jd-lens.html>

3) Small Fish Farming Opportunity Can Wipe Out Malnutrition

Pioneering work to boost diets across the global South is turning to the smallest of fish. While small in size, tiny fish are packed with nutrition when eaten whole, as they are in many cultures. Often these fish come packed with vitamin A, iron, zinc, calcium, protein and essential fats - all necessary elements to eradicate malnutrition and hidden hunger, especially among women and children.

It is estimated that 684,000 child deaths worldwide could be prevented by increasing access to vitamin A and zinc (WFP).

Iron deficiency is the most prevalent form of malnutrition worldwide, affecting an estimated 2 billion people. Iron deficiency is impairing the mental development of 40 to 60 per cent of children in developing countries (UNICEF). The World Health Organization says that eradicating iron deficiency can improve national productivity levels by as much as 20 percent.

Vitamin A deficiency affects approximately 25 per cent of the developing world's pre-schoolers. It is associated with blindness, susceptibility to disease and higher mortality rates, and leads to the death of approximately 1 to 3 million children each year (UN).

This devastating evidence shows the need to find effective food solutions to eradicate these nutrient deficiencies. Access to affordable nutrient-rich food is also key to social and political stability. Already, there is serious unrest in many countries around the world because of food-price inflation.

Finding ways to boost nutritional health that are sustainable, low-cost and do not require substantial use of resources will have the best success in the poorest areas.

A number of studies suggest one solution may be eating more small fish. In many countries, these species are eaten as part of the diet, but often not in large enough quantities to address hunger and malnutrition. Small fish species are a remarkable food source because they are usually eaten whole, bringing greater nutritional benefits. Small fish have a long history in human diets. Anchovies (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anchovy>) are used in many cuisines, for example.

A study conducted between 2010 and 2013 in Bangladesh and Cambodia by Dr. Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted, Senior Nutrition Adviser to WorldFish (worldfishcenter.org), found that the eating of small fish in both countries gave a significant boost to daily diets and massively improved nutrition and health. The project, called Linking Fisheries and Nutrition: Promoting Innovative Fish Production Technologies in Ponds and Wetlands with Nutrient-dense Small Fish Species was supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

People in both countries still currently suffer from under nutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.

In rural areas of Bangladesh and Cambodia it found 50 to 80 per cent of total fish consumed were small fish. The quantities consumed during each meal were small but they occurred in diets frequently. Typically, they were eaten whole, with the head, viscera (internal organs) and bones consumed. This meant consuming small fish packed a punch, giving the eater a dose of calcium, vitamin A, iron and zinc.

More specifically, the study found the iron-rich Mekong flying barb (*Esomus longimanus*) (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/169546/0>) - eaten as part of a meal of rice and sour soup with its head intact in Cambodia - could provide 45 per cent of the daily iron requirement for a woman.

Malnutrition is also a serious problem in Bangladesh. Half the population lives below the poverty line and diets are poor in delivering necessary vitamins and minerals. This is damaging to peoples' physical and mental health.

The study found existing fish aquaculture methods in Bangladesh were inefficient. But new technologies provide an opportunity to increase the quantity of fish harvested and increase household incomes. By using highly efficient low-risk polyculture systems - basically combining small, nutrient-dense fish with high-value fish such as carp or freshwater prawn - it is possible to significantly increase the quantity of fish produced.

Another one of the new techniques includes increasing pond depth, which conserves broodfish (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broodstock>). Broodfish are the mature fish used for the production of eggs or sperm and are also called spawners.

The study estimated a production of 10 kilograms per pond per year of fish spread across the 4 million small ponds in Bangladesh has the potential to meet the recommended dietary intake for 6 million children in the country.

The work in Bangladesh to boost the production of small fish has inspired similar initiatives in Sunderbans, West Bengal, India and in Terai, Nepal. Initiatives in Cambodia and Kenya have also developed meals for young children by combining powdered rice or maize with small fish.

And in Africa, some are calling for more use of aquaculture as an alternative to dwindling fish sources. For sub-Saharan Africans, fish can make up 22 per cent of the protein in their diet.

As populations on the continent quickly rise, marine fisheries are beginning to be over-exploited. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and WorldFish are calling for an aquaculture revolution on the continent to move away from the old approach of just using ponds located on farms. To make a real impact, both organizations argue, there needs to be a partnership between smallholder farmers and others to build a commercial fish farming sector.

"Per capita fish supplies in Africa are dwindling," Malcolm Beveridge, director for aquaculture at WorldFish, one of the 15 CGIAR research centers (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research) (<http://www.cgiar.org/cgiar-consortium/research-centers/>), that generate and disseminate knowledge, technologies, and policies for agricultural development. "In Malawi, they fell from 10 kilograms to 6 kilograms per person between 1986 and 2006. Aquaculture has the potential to increase supplies of this affordable nutritious food for poor and vulnerable consumers," he told The Guardian.

LINKS:

- 1) Scaling Up Nutrition: Scaling Up Nutrition, or SUN, is a unique movement founded on the principle that all people have a right to food and good nutrition. It unites people - from governments, civil society, the United Nations, donors, businesses and researchers - in a collective effort to improve nutrition. **Website:** <http://scalingupnutrition.org/>
- 2) The WorldFish Center: WorldFish, a member of the CGIAR Consortium, is an international, non-profit research organization dedicated to reducing poverty and hunger by improving fisheries and aquaculture. **Website:** <http://www.worldfishcenter.org/>
- 3) Bangladesh Shrimp and Fish Foundation: Bangladesh Shrimp and Fish Foundation (BSFF) is a non-profit private research and advocacy organization created through a USAID project. **Website:** <http://www.shrimpfoundation.org/>
- 4) Aquaculture for the Poor in Cambodia - Lessons Learned: The project was implemented by the WorldFish Center with financial support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Government of Japan). **Website:** http://www.worldfishcenter.org/resource_centre/WF_2769.pdf
- 5) Global Aquatics: The website design is a bit dated but it is packed with the basics on aquaculture. **Website:** <http://growfish.com/>
- 6) Practical Action: Extensive resources are available on aquaculture and farming fish, including experience and techniques from the global South. **Website:** <http://practicalaction.org/farming-fish-and-aquaculture>
- 7) Preserving fish safely: Tips on the top ways to preserve fish from the University of Minnesota. **Website:** <http://www1.extension.umn.edu/food/food-safety/preserving/meat-fish/preserving-fish-safely/>
- 8) Preserving food techniques: Many inventive ways to preserve food, from wild game to fish to vegetables and fruits. **Website:** http://www.thenewsurvivalist.com/food_preservation_techniques.html
- 9) Ugandan fish sausages enterprise: A pioneering business started by a young businesswoman. **Website:** <http://katifarms.org/>

4) Burgeoning African E-commerce Industry Full of Opportunity

Africa has seen huge change since 2000 in the way people access information and do business electronically. The most championed accomplishment has been the widespread take-up of mobile phones. This has given birth to countless entrepreneurs and innovators, who are using phones to help people, do business and sell goods and services.

Not as quick to spread, mostly because of high cost and poor infrastructure, is access to the Internet. While Web access is taken for granted in many wealthy countries and is increasingly commonplace in many developing nations, Africa as a whole still suffers from poor infrastructure for access to the Internet. But this is changing by the month as more undersea cables connect countries and bandwidth is increased (<http://www.submarinecablemap.com/>).

Africa's population can be expected to at least double from 1.1 billion to about 2.3 billion by 2050 - and most will live in urban areas (Population Reference Bureau).

And incomes are rising. Africa is richer than India on the basis of gross national income (GNI) per capita, and a dozen African countries have a higher GNI per capita than China (Africa Rising).

According to the McKinsey Global Institute, "The incomes of these new consuming classes are rising even faster than the number of individuals in the consuming classes. This means that many products and services are hitting take-off points at which their consumption rises swiftly and steeply. By 2025 urban consumers are likely to inject around (US) \$20 trillion a year in additional spending into the world economy."

Research firm Jana (jana.com) - which specializes in emerging markets - studied the consumer preferences of people in Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa. They surveyed 600 consumers in each country, seeking to unearth what their preferences were when it came to using e-commerce services (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E-commerce>). E-commerce is the buying and selling of products and services over electronic systems such as the Internet and other computer-enabled systems. This is still a young industry in Africa and one ripe with opportunity for hardworking and innovative players. Many are starting to realize they had better move fast because this is a market that still has much up for grabs and is not - yet - dominated by mature players such as eBay or Amazon.

The survey uncovered five trends driving e-commerce in Africa. These trends address the unique conditions present in Africa and what challenges need to be met.

The first trend the firm identified is cash on delivery. This has become the main way people do e-commerce in Africa because of the lack of trust in the security of online payments. Cash is still king in the region. The second trend is having a proprietary logistics network. This comes in response to the poor infrastructure present in much of Africa. This has meant e-commerce companies need to take charge of the whole process of getting a good to the customer's home. This is, of course, costly and places a big restraint on any new company in the e-commerce market.

The third big trend is one that reflects the reality of how people communicate electronically in Africa. Mobile phones are king, and this means e-commerce needs to be mobile phone-friendly or lose out on reaching many customers. The fourth trend is related to the fact Africa is still off the logistics route for much world trade. This means e-commerce companies need to set aside space for large warehouses to store the goods so that they are on hand when the customer wants them.

And, finally, the fifth trend is the importance of good customer service as the clincher for success in the marketplace. Word of mouth gets around if a company is not able to deliver on what is promised so it is important to have high-quality customer service to build trust, keep engaged with consumers and let them know problems are being resolved.

South Africa has emerged as the continent's powerhouse when it comes to e-commerce, according to Jana. Successful players in that country include Zando (<http://www.zando.co.za/>) an online fashion store by Rocket Internet, MIH Internet Africa's Kalahari online store (<http://www.kalahari.com/>) and entertainment and consumer electronics online store Takealot.com supported by Tiger Global. Research firm World Wide Worx (<http://www.worldwideworx.com/>) calculated that online retail in South Africa is growing by 30 per cent a year.

But South Africa cannot rest on its laurels: the survey found Nigeria is fast overtaking South Africa as its large population takes to the Internet. Impressively, Nigeria's Government has pledged to expand broadband Internet access to 80 per cent of the country over the next five years.

In East Africa, Kenya's Rocket Internet's service Jumia (<http://www.jumia.co.ke/>) is now one of the top 100 online destinations in the country.

Jana also found there were various key areas for improvement for the e-commerce industry in Africa. One, was the importance of explaining to African consumers the basics of online shopping. Many respondents to the survey seemed confused about making purchases on the Internet and through e-commerce. They also showed low levels of understanding about payment methods and available financial products. And finally, one of the big obstacles to expanding the industry is improving delivery reliability.

But all these problems and challenges spell opportunity for innovators who can solve them and make some money too!

LINKS:

- 1) E-commerce: The latest news from The Guardian newspaper. **Website:** <http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/efinance>
- 2) E-commerce Expo: From 2 to 3 October 2013 in London, UK, the eCommerce Expo is the industry event for the UK and, increasingly, Europe. It ranks as one of the largest gatherings of e-commerce professionals in Europe and boasts over 180 exhibiting companies plus a comprehensive conference programme. **Website:** <http://www.ecommerceexpo.co.uk/page.cfm/newSection=Yes>
- 3) Mashable e-commerce: E-commerce (or electric commerce) refers to the buying and selling of goods and services via electronic channels, primarily the Internet. Online retail is decidedly convenient due to its 24-hour availability, global reach and generally efficient customer service. **Website:** <http://mashable.com/category/e-commerce/>
- 4) Actinic: An online software system for setting up an online e-commerce website. **Website:** actinic.co.uk/

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Check out our website archive: southerninnovator.org

Southern Innovator (ISSN 2222-9280) magazine's third issue is now online and print copies are available for distribution. The third issue's theme is agribusiness and food security. View the issue online here: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/106055665/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-3-Agribusiness-and-Food-Security>. Contact us about opportunities to sponsor this issue or any future issues and we can send you more information on how it works.

Issue 4, on cities and urbanization, is complete and will be published soon. Please contact the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation if you would like a copy (copies) of Southern Innovator (<http://ssc.undp.org/content/ssc.html>).

The covers for issues 2, 3 and 4 are below:



Issue 2 on Youth and Entrepreneurship; Issue 3 on agribusiness and food security, is available. Issues 4 and 5 are also in the works for 2013.

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Issue 1 of Southern Innovator was called "...a terrific tour de force of what is interesting, cutting edge and relevant in the global mobile/ICT space..."

Also check out our South South Expo: 2012's Expo was held in Vienna, Austria: southsouthexpo.org

BOOKS

NEW: Human Development Report 2013: The Rise of the South. The 2013 Human Development Report examines the profound shift in global dynamics driven by the fast-rising new powers of the developing world and its long-term implications for human development. **Website:** <http://hdr.undp.org/en/mediacentre/humandevreportpresskits/2013report/>

Human Development Reports, (1990-2013). **Website:** <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2011/>

The New Harvest: Agricultural Innovation in Africa by Calestous Juma, Publisher: Oxford University Press. **Website:** http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/publication/20504/new_harvest.html

NEW: The Entrepreneurial State: Debunking Public vs. Private Myths by Mariana Mazzucato, Publisher: Anthem Press. The Entrepreneurial State explores the leading role that the State has played in generating innovation and economic growth in modern capitalism. **Website:** <http://marianamazzucato.com/projects/entrepreneurial-state/>

NEW: Edible Insects: Future prospects for food and feed security, Publisher: FAO. **Website:** <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3253e/i3253e00.htm>

Innovative Africa: The New Face of Africa: Essays on the Rise of Africa's Innovation Age by Will Mutua and Mbwana Ally, Publisher: Afrinnovator. **Website:** <http://book.afrinnovator.com/>

The Coming Prosperity by Philip Auerwald, Publisher: Oxford University Press. **Website:** <http://auerswald.org/>

Big Data: A Revolution That Will Transform How We Live, Work and Think by Viktor Mayer-Schonberger and Kenneth Cukier, Publisher: John Murray. **Website:** amazon.com

The New Digital Age: Reshaping the Future of People, Nations and Business by Eric Schmidt and Jared Cohen, Publisher: John Murray. **Website:** amazon.com

Interconnected Economies: Benefiting from Global Value Chains, Publisher: OECD. **Website:** <http://www.oecd.org/sti/ind/global-value-chains.htm>

Need, Speed and Greed: How the New Rules of Innovation Can Transform Businesses, Propel Nations to Greatness, and Tame the World's Most Wicked Problems by Vijay Vaitheeswaran, Publisher: HarperBusiness. **Website:** amazon.com

Living in the Endless City edited by Ricky Burdett and Deyan Sudjic, Publisher: Phaidon. The city is the subject of the 21st century. All over the world, populations are shifting towards urban centres. *Living in the Endless City* depicts an authoritative survey of cities of today and the prospects for our urban future of tomorrow. 36 contributors from across Europe, South America, China, Africa and the U.S. set the agenda for the city - detailing its successes as well as its failures. **Website:** <http://www.urban-age.net/publications/living-in-the-endless-city/>

Consumptionomics: Asia's Role in Reshaping Capitalism by Chandran Nair, Publisher: Infinite Ideas. **Website:** amazon.com

World 3.0: Global Prosperity and How to Achieve It by Pankaj Ghemawa, Publisher: Harvard Business School Press. **Website:** amazon.com

The End of Cheap China: Economic and Cultural Trends that will Disrupt the World by Shaun Rein, Publisher: John Wiley and Sons. **Website:** amazon.com

Global Slump: The Economics and Politics of Crisis and Resistance by David McNally, Publisher: PM Press. Global Slump analyzes the global financial meltdown as the first systemic crisis of the neoliberal stage of capitalism. It argues that – far from having ended – the crisis has ushered in a whole period of worldwide economic and political turbulence. In developing an account of the crisis as rooted in fundamental features of capitalism, Global Slump challenges the view that its source lies in financial deregulation. **Website:** https://secure.pmpress.org/index.php?l=product_detail&p=271

Breakout Nations by Ruchir Sharma, Publisher: Penguin. Breakout Nations offers journeys through more than two dozen of the most interesting economies in the emerging world. **Website:** <http://breakoutnations.com/>

Light Manufacturing in Africa by Hinh T. Dinh et al, Publisher: World Bank. This book examines how light manufacturing can offer a viable solution for sub-Saharan Africa's need for structural transformation and productive job creation, given its potential competitiveness based on low wage costs and an abundance of natural resources that supply raw materials needed for industries. **Website:** <http://issuu.com/world.bank.publications/docs/9780821389614>

Arrival City by Doug Saunders, Publisher: Pantheon. A third of humanity is on the move. History's largest migration is creating new urban spaces that are this century's focal points of conflict and change — centres of febrile settlement that will reshape our cities and reconfigure our economies. **Website:** <http://arrivalcity.net/>

China: And the End of Poverty in Africa – Towards Mutual Benefit? by Penny Davis, Publisher: Diakonia and the European Network on Debt and Development. **Website:** www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats_New/Reports/Kinarapport_A4.pdf

State of the Field in Youth Enterprise, Employment, and Livelihoods Development Publisher: Making Cents International. This practical resource features learning from over 80 leading organizations that are working around the world to increase and improve economic opportunities for young people. Topics include youth enterprise development; workforce development; youth-inclusive financial services; working with adolescent girls and young women; and monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment. **Website:** www.YouthEconomicOpportunities.org/media.asp

Vitamin Green: The Definitive Guide to the World of Contemporary Sustainable Design: Features 100 Innovative Projects from Around the World by editors of Phaidon Press, Publisher: Phaidon Press. **Website:** <http://uk.phaidon.com/store/architecture/vitamin-green-9780714862293/>

Makers: The New Industrial Revolution by Chris Anderson, Publisher: Crown Business. **Website:** amazon.com

World Economic Outlook, October 2012: Coping with High Debt and Sluggish Growth, Publisher: IMF. **Website:** eurospangroup.com

Information Economy Report 2012: The Software Industry and Developing Countries, Publisher: United Nations Publications. **Website:** eurospangroup.com

China and India: Towards Global Economic Supremacy? by Rita Dulci and Jose Miguel Andreu, Publisher: Academic Foundation. **Website:** eurospanbookstore.com

Devaluing to Prosperity: Misaligned Currencies and Their Growth Consequences by Surjit S. Bhalla, Publisher: Peterson Institute for International Economics. **Website:** eurospanbookstore.com

Chinnovation: How Chinese Innovators are Changing the World by Yinglan Tan, Publisher: John Wiley & Sons. **Website:** amazon.com

Hello World: Where Design Meets Life by Alice Rawsthorn, Publisher: Hamish Hamilton. **Website:** amazon.com

Urgent Architecture: 40 Sustainable Housing Solutions for a Changing World by Bridgette Meinhold, Publisher: W.W. Norton & Co. **Website:** amazon.com

When the Money Runs Out: The End of Western Affluence by Stephen D. King, Publisher: Yale Books. **Website:** amazon.com

Papers and Reports

Clean Air Asia Study 2012: **Website:** <http://cleanairinitiative.org/portal/node/11338>

African Economic Outlook 2013: **Website:** <http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en/>

State of China's Cities: 2010/2011: Better City, Better Life: Publisher: UNHABITAT. **Website:** www.scribd.com/doc/39882697/State-of-China-s-Cities-Report-2010-2011

Innovative responses to fragility: The promise of modern technology: **Website:** <http://oecdinsights.org/2013/04/22/innovative-responses-to-fragility-the-promise-of-modern-technology/>

OECD Reviews of Agricultural Policies: Kazakhstan 2013: Publisher: OECD. Kazakhstan can boost farm sector with investment in infrastructure and innovation. **Website:** <http://www.oecd.org/tad/agricultural-policies/kazakhstan-review-2013.htm>

NEW: The IDS Bulletin 'China and Brazil in African Agriculture' is published in July 2013 by Wiley-Blackwell. Pre-review versions of the Bulletin articles are available free to download from www.future-agricultures.org/research/cbaa

OECD Reviews of Innovation Policy: Innovation in Southeast Asia: Publisher: OECD. This review provides a quantitative and qualitative assessment of Southeast Asian countries' capacity in S&T and innovation. **Website:** http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/science-and-technology/innovation-in-southeast-asia-2012_9789264128712-en

Knowledge-based Start-ups in Mexico: Publisher: OECD. This report evaluates the performance of the knowledge-based sector in Mexico and recommends ways to improve the financing, creation and expansion of innovative knowledge-based start-ups. **Website:** http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/industry-and-services/knowledge-based-start-ups-in-mexico_9789264193796-en

Exploring Data-Driven Innovation as a New Source of Growth: Publisher: OECD. Data continues to be a valuable asset for stimulating innovation and productivity. This report explores the potential of data and data analytics to contribute to economic growth and well-being in sectors such as online advertisement, health care, utilities, logistics and transport and public administration. It identifies areas where coherent public policies and practices for data collection, transport, storage, provision and use are needed to unlock the potential of big data. **Website:** http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/science-and-technology/exploring-data-driven-innovation-as-a-new-source-of-growth_5k47zw3fcp43-en

BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2013: "The emerging economies - the non-OECD countries - firmly established themselves as the source of what demand growth was seen, with China and India alone accounting for nearly 90% of the increase. Just twenty years ago, the emerging economies accounted for only 42% of global consumption; now that figure is 56%." **Website:** <http://www.bp.com/en/global/corporate/about-bp/statistical-review-of-world-energy-2013.html>

What is Social and Solidarity Economy and Why Does it Matter? by Peter Utting, Publisher: UNRISD. Governments and international organizations need to be paying far more attention to SSE, and question how its developmental and emancipatory potential can be realized. They should also be asking themselves whether current priorities or biases in development policies are not missing, or indeed undermining, what could be a major new game in town. **Website:** http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/newsview.nsf/%28httpNews%29/B880F260D1BE1FB5C1257B5E002F6F65?OpenDocument&utm_campaign=ebulletin_23_5_2013&utm_medium=email_html&utm_source=en&utm_content=content_link

Trees and food security in Africa; what's the link? **Website:** <http://blog.worldagroforestry.org/index.php/2013/07/04/trees-and-food-security-in-africa-whats-the-link/>

Magazines

Southern Innovator Issue 1: Mobile Phones and Information Technology Publisher: UN Office for South-South Cooperation. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/95410448/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-1-Mobile-Phones-and-Information-Technology>

Southern Innovator Issue 2: Youth and Entrepreneurship Publisher: UN Office for South-South Cooperation. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/106055335/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-2-Youth-and-Entrepreneurship>

Southern Innovator Issue 3: Agribusiness and Food Security Publisher: UN Office for South-South Cooperation. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/106055665/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-3-Agribusiness-and-Food-Security>

Southern Innovator Issue 4: Cities and Urbanization Publisher: UN Office for South-South Cooperation. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/133622315/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-4-Cities-and-Urbanization>

New Publication

Net Journal of Agricultural Science (NJAS) is an international peer-reviewed open access journal, which publishes innovative work from all areas related to Agricultural Science. NJAS covers all areas of agriculture including arid soil research and rehabilitation, agricultural genomics, stored products research, tree fruit production, pesticide science, post-harvest biology and technology, seed science research, irrigation, agricultural engineering, water resources management, agronomy, animal science, physiology and morphology, aquaculture, crop science, dairy science, entomology, fish and fisheries, forestry, freshwater science, horticulture, poultry science, soil science, systematic biology, veterinary, virology, viticulture, weed biology, agricultural economics and agribusiness. Website: netjournals.org

On the Web

Blogs and Websites

LandWise: The Landesa Center for Women's Land Rights has just launched LandWise, a free online resource containing land-related laws, information about relevant customary practices, and explanatory materials. LandWise is an important new tool for policymakers, researchers, legal practitioners, and women's advocates working to strengthen women's land rights around the world. **Website:** http://landwise.landesa.org/?utm_source=ADV+Plotlines+-+JULY+2013&utm_campaign=Plotlines+JULY+2013&utm_medium=email

Raspberry Pi: The Raspberry Pi is a credit-card sized computer that plugs into your TV and a keyboard. It's a capable little PC which can be used for many of the things that your desktop PC does, like spreadsheets, word-processing and games. It also plays high-definition video. Raspberry Pi want to see it being used by kids all over the world to learn programming. **Website:** raspberrypi.org

African Robotics Network: The African Robotics Network (AFRON) is a community of institutions, organizations and individuals engaged in robotics in Africa. AFRON seeks to promote communication and collaborations that will enhance robotics-related education, research and industry on the continent. To achieve this, AFRON organizes projects, meetings and events in Africa at robotics and automation conferences abroad. **Website:** <http://robotics-africa.org/>

Polis: A collaborative blog about cities around the globe. **Website:** <http://www.thepolisblog.org/2012/03/coca-cola-in-africa.html>

mDirectory: The mDirectory is the most comprehensive database of information on mobile tech for social change on the Web: case studies, mobile tools, research, and how-to guides. **Website:** <http://mobileactive.org/directory>

Global Development: Launched in September 2010, this website from the Guardian newspaper tracks progress on the MDGs, encourages debate on its blogs, offers a rich store of datasets from around the world, and features monthly podcasts and resources for schools. **Website:** www.guardian.co.uk/global-development

Latameconomy: Latameconomy.org is the latest evolution of the annual Latin American Economic Outlook report, essentially bringing its trusted, high quality content into the digital age. Its wide country coverage and methods of analysis are essential for anyone seeking to understand the economic, social and political developments of Latin American countries. **Website:** www.latameconomy.org/en/

International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs): International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs) is a pluralist network of progressive economists across the world, engaged in research, teaching and dissemination of critical analyses of economic policy and development. **Website:** www.networkideas.org/

OECD: Tackling the economic crisis website

The global economic crisis is entering a new phase amid signs of a return to positive growth in many countries. But unemployment is likely to remain high and much still needs to be done to underpin a durable recovery. This website will track the recovery. **Website:**

http://www.oecd.org/document/24/0,3343,en_2649_201185_41707672_1_1_1_1,00.html

The Global Urbanist: News and analysis of cities around the world: planning, governance, economy, communities, environment, international. Website: globalurbanist.com

ICT Update: A bimonthly printed bulletin, a web magazine, and an accompanying email newsletter that explores innovative uses of information technology in agriculture and rural development in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. **Website:** <http://ictupdate.cta.int/en/Regulars/Perspectives/%28issue%29/56>

Youth-Inclusive Financial Services (YFS-Link) Program website: The first space for financial services providers (FSPs) and youth-service organizations (YSOs) to gather, learn and share about youth-inclusive financial services. **Website:** yfslink.org

Triple Crisis Blog: Global Perspectives on Finance, Development and Environment. **Website:** <http://triplecrisis.com/>

IDEAS Centre is dedicated to facilitating the integration of developing countries into the world economy and has over the last ten years assembled substantial experience on this issue. Its mission is to support policy-makers around the world working to develop approaches to ensure that globalization can be harnessed for development and to fight poverty both within their countries and in a more inclusive and fairer world trading system. **Website:** <http://www.ideascentre.ch/>

Full Disclosure: The Aid Transparency Blog: A Devex blog, written by members of the international community. **Website:** www.devex.com/en/blogs/full-disclosure

Africa Portal: An online knowledge resource offering researchers and opinion leaders a forum to share their insights on Africa and publish their work on pressing areas of concern to policymakers and the public. It aims to fill the gap in accessibility to research and information on policy issues on the continent. Website: africaportal.org
African Economic Outlook: A unique online tool that puts rigorous economic data, information and research on Africa at your fingertips. A few clicks gives access to comprehensive analyses of African economies, placed in their social and political contexts. This is the only place where African countries are examined through a common analytical framework, allowing you to compare economic prospects at the regional, sub-regional and country levels. **Website:** africaneconomicoutlook.org/en

Africa Renewal: The Africa Renewal information programme, produced by the Africa Section of the United Nations Department of Public Information, provides up-to-date information and analysis of the major economic and development challenges facing Africa today. **Website:** www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec/

Timbuktu Chronicles: A blog by Emeka Okafor
With "a view of Africa and Africans with a focus on entrepreneurship, innovation, technology, practical remedies and other self-sustaining activities." **Website:** <http://timbuktuchronicles.blogspot.com/>

AfriGadget: AfriGadget is a must-read for African invention junkies. They are always on the look out for ingenious innovation that is new or a repurposing of existing technology in a new way, interesting in the sense that the story captures the imagination of others, inspiring others to see solutions in uncommon ways, practical ideas that solve problems in a demonstrable way, and entrepreneurs who are inventing new products or solutions. **Website:** afrigadget.com

Medium for Haiti: This is a collection dedicated to sharing stories about rebuilding Haiti. Website: <https://medium.com/medium-for-haiti>

Interesting Blogger

Emeka Okafor, Timbuktu Chronicles: Emeka Okafor is an entrepreneur and venture catalyst who lives in New York City. He is the curator of Maker Faire Africa. He was the director for TED Global 2007 that took place in Arusha, Tanzania. In addition he is a member of the TED fellowship team. His interests include sustainable technologies in the developing world and paradigm-breaking technologies in general. His blog, Timbuktu Chronicles, seeks to spur dialogue in areas of entrepreneurship, technology and the scientific method as it impacts Africa. **Website:** <http://timbuktuchronicles.blogspot.co.uk/>

Notable Websites

African Brains: The Home of Intelligent Networking: African Brains - for forward thinking, intelligent Africans to network and propose new ideas and technologies to the world. **Website:** www.africanbrains.net

Arab Brains: The Home of Intelligent Networking: Arab Brains has been established to connect innovative Arabs across the Arab World and beyond. **Website:** <http://arabbrains.com/>

Social Media

Africa Entrepreneurship Platform: This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally, driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas. **Website:** www.sacca.biz

AfriGadget on Facebook: 'Solving everyday problems with African ingenuity': **Website:** www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2402629579

Start-up Funding

Hubs!

They are sprouting up all over the place and now there is a map showing where they are in Africa. **Website:** <https://africahubs.crowdmap.com/#>

And there are 18 in Latin America too. **Website:** <http://thenextweb.com/la/2012/08/11/18-latin-american-tech-hubs-know/>

The SEED Initiative

Hosted by the UN Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the SEED Initiative is a global partnership for action on the Green Economy. The annual SEED Awards help to develop the most promising social and environmental start-ups in emerging economies and developing countries. **Website:** <http://unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2647&ArticleID=8798&l=en>

The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award

This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Five pioneers will receive US \$50,000 to re-invest in their business. It is open to for-profit businesses that provide high wages to their workers and that operate in sustainable ways. **Website:** <http://pioneersofprosperity.org/index.php>

Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition

Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of £2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the 'world's first global youth development competition. **Website:** www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/oba/se/ybd

Challenge

InnoCentive (www.innocentive.com/) is a challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable. It is an open marketplace where anybody with a problem can post it, and rewards for effective solutions stretch up to US \$100,000. They use rigorous intellectual property protection so ideas are not stolen without credit being given to the inventor. **Website:** www.rockfound.org/about_us/news/2007/0720first_seeker.shtml

Rwanda Innovation Endowment Fund (RIEF): Rwanda Research Innovation Endowment Fund (RIEF) was established and is managed by the Government of Rwanda, through the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) in partnership with UNECA (SRO-EA & ISTD) under One UN Rwanda. The objective of this Fund is to stimulate economic transformation through R&D in innovative market-oriented products and processes in priority areas of the economy, thereby increasing prosperity and the competitiveness of the Rwandan economy. The orientation can be either for economic growth, social development or combination of the two. **Website:** <http://www.mineduc.gov.rw/spip.php?article21>

The Innovation Prize for Africa (IPA): The **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)** and the **African Innovation Foundation (AIF)** are delighted to announce the call for applications for the 2013 **Innovation Prize for Africa (IPA)**. Too often, innovators and entrepreneurs are not highly profiled on the African development agenda. It is IPA's mission to elevate attention around innovative work and help support the vision of entrepreneurs. The prize honours and encourages innovative achievements that contribute towards the development of new products, increased efficiency or cost savings in Africa. The prize also promotes the efforts of young African men and women pursuing science, technology and engineering careers as well as business opportunities that aim to contribute to sustainable development in Africa. **Website:** <http://innovationprizeforafrica.org/>

Video

Forum for the Future: Compelling animated videos exploring the hard choices of an urbanizing world and the need to promote sustainable development and environmental harmony. **Website:**

<http://www.youtube.com/user/forumforthefuture96>

EVENTS

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to developmentchallenges@googlemail.com.

2013

June

China's New Future: Fortune Global Forum

Chengdu, China (6-8 June 2013)

Since 1995, the Global Forum has convened the heads of global business—the chairmen, presidents, and CEOs of the world's largest companies—on the dynamic frontiers of international commerce. In 2013 the Global Forum will return to China for the 4th time, convening in Chengdu, an energetic growing city in southwestern China that is both a symbol and the reality of the 21st century global economy. China is at a key inflection point, changing dynamically, and the Fortune Global Forum is the highest-level place for multinational CEOs—and the heads of China's most important companies—to gain visibility into the emerging new trends, and meet the people that are shaping "China's New Future." It represents an unparalleled opportunity to build the key relationships and obtain insights that are vital to positioning multinational companies for long-term success, in China and on a global basis. Participation in the Fortune Global Forum is by invitation only, and is attended by the CEOs of the Fortune Global 500 companies, along with the most important leaders from China and other nations.

Website: <http://www.fortuneconferences.com/global-forum-2013/>

Future of Mobile

San Francisco, USA (10-11 June 2013)

The MIT Technology Review Mobile Summit examines the benefits, risks and opportunities we are seeing in mobile, and introduces attendees to the disruptive business and technology leaders in the field.

Website: <http://www.technologyreview.com/summit/mobile/>

Digital Horizons: People, Prosperity, Power

Stockholm, Sweden (12-13 June 2013)

Technology is going to change everything, again. Digitalisation has already transformed our lives but a new wave of innovation is coming that will reshape the way we live, work and consume, redefining social systems, industrial competitiveness and democracy – pushing the boundaries of what we thought possible. At Digital Horizons, we will explore the opportunities, challenges and threats in our digital future, focusing on current trends and their impact in 5, 15 and 30 years. How will technology change the way that companies compete and consumers behave? What needs to happen for Northern Europe, a hub of innovation in the past, to ensure that digitalisation supports growth, transparency and competition? Our summit will gather leading innovators, researchers, entrepreneurs, futurists and policymakers to discuss the digital future. **Website:**

<http://cemea.economistconferences.com/event/digital-horizons-0>

The New York Forum: Africa 2013

Libreville, Gabon (14-16 June 2013)

The inaugural New York Forum Africa was about recognizing Africa's economic achievements and understanding the opportunities for business and investors. The New York Forum Africa 2013 will focus on the hard work necessary to make these opportunities a reality: How do we implement an action plan? What are the concrete next steps? **Website:** <http://www.ny-forum-africa.com/en/home>

Women of West Africa Entrepreneurship Conference

Lagos, Nigeria (20-22 June 2013)

Women entrepreneurship in Nigeria is breaking new ground in business, government and society driving change across diverse spheres of influence through innovation, creativity and total determination. Yet challenges in an increasingly demanding and competitive economic environment remain. How are women entrepreneurs cultivating success, taking ownership of their ambitions and thriving both personally and professionally and what strategies are being developed to gain momentum while on their journey towards taking the reins are some of this issues which will be covered at this year's event dedicated to meeting today's challenges for the leading entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

Website:

http://wovenigeria.com/?utm_source=Ventures%20Africa&utm_medium=Banner&utm_campaign=WOWe&utm_content=Version%202

2013 Public Symposium: New Economic Approaches for a Coherent Post-2015 Agenda

Geneva, Switzerland (24-25 June 2013)

The Public Symposium is the annual outreach event of UNCTAD where government officials, civil society representatives, academics, the private sector and other interested observers come together to engage in an open and interactive dialogue on key trade and development issues.

Website: <http://unctad.org/en/conferences/publicsymposium/2013/Pages/home.aspx>

July

Launch of the Economic Development in Africa Report 2013

(11 July 2013)

"*Intra-African trade: unleashing private-sector dynamism*" is the theme of the Economic Development in Africa Report 2013. The report focuses on how to strengthen the private sector and reap developmental gains, as intra-Africa trade is vital for helping the continent's nations build their productive capacities and enhance entrepreneurship. **Website:** <http://unctad.org/en/Pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=298>

August

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to developmentchallenges@googlemail.com.

September

Global Youth Economic Opportunities Conference 2013

Washington, D.C., USA (10-12 September 2013)

Purpose: Increase economic opportunities for 1.8 billion youth. The conference goal is to strengthen the impact, scale, and sustainability of youth economic opportunity programming. Be part of this premier learning event. Join leading practitioners, funders, private sector companies, researchers, educators, advocates, youth leaders and government representatives working to increase economic opportunities for young people, together with those working in the related areas of education, financial services, and health. The 2013 event will contain two Spotlights: "Opportunities for Rural Youth" focuses on how to support youth in rural areas. "Power of Technology" showcases how to utilize technology in your programming.

Website: <http://www.youtheconomicopportunities.org/conference/register>

Launch of the Trade and Development Report 2013

(12 September 2013)

"Winds of change in the world economy: Rethinking development strategies" is the title of the Trade and Development Report 2013. The study will contend that to achieve durable and inclusive growth, developing and transition economies will need to move towards a new form of development, away from seeking net-export advantages on the back of global imbalances and towards a concentration on strengthening domestic demand and on expanding regional and South-South economic linkages.

Website: <http://unctad.org/en/Pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=299>

Medicine 2.0'13 6th World Congress on Social Media, Mobile Apps, and Internet/Web 2.0 in Health and Medicine

London, UK (23-24 September 2013)

This year hosted in London, will once again be very international and contain a unique mix of traditional academic/research, practice and business presentations, keynote presentations, and panel discussions to discuss emerging technologies in health and medicine, with an emphasis on Internet-based, social media, and mobile technologies. **Website:** <http://bit.ly/X7ZXxj>

October

7th ECOWAS Trade Fair

Accra, Ghana (24 October to 4 November 2013)

The regional fair, which is now a biennial event, was instituted to boost intra-community trade which presently hovers between 11 and 15 percent, and thereby contributing to the improved implementation of the ECOWAS

Trade Liberalisation Scheme (ETLS). It will also contribute to empowering local producers and stimulating the regional economy. **Website:** <http://www.ecowas.int/>

Ghana Investment Summit 2013

Accra, Ghana (29 to 30 October 2013)

Africa's recent economic surge is fueling optimism about the continent's prospects and positioning it in the minds of many investors and businesses as a significant opportunity. Blessed with a wealth of natural resources and a large, young and growing population, many economies in Africa are enjoying rates of growth and development that are the envy of the emerging world. **Website:**

<http://cemea.economistconferences.com/event/ghana-investment-summit-2013/ghana-investment-summit-2013-fees-and-registration>

November

Launch of the Least Developed Countries Report 2013

(20 November 2013)

The UNCTAD Least Developed Countries Report 2013 will focus on the theme of "Growth with employment for inclusive and sustainable development". The report, noting that 130 million people will enter the labour force in LDCs by 2020, reviews past LDC trends relating to economic growth and employment and recommends policy steps to accelerate job creation. **Website:** <http://unctad.org/en/Pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=300>

December

Launch of the Information Economy Report 2013

(3 December 2013)

Website: <http://unctad.org/en/Pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=301>

AWARDS AND FUNDING

The EU Contest for Young Scientists

The European Union (EU) Contest for Young Scientists, an initiative of the European Commission, was set up to promote the ideals of co-operation and interchange between young scientists.

Website: http://ec.europa.eu/research/youngscientists/index_en.cfm?pg=history

2013 Innovation Prize for Africa

The second round of the Innovation Prize for Africa (IPA), which aims to reward innovation across Africa in key sectors of interest, has been launched. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) expect the prize to promote among young African men and women in the pursuit of science, technology and engineering careers and business applications. The aims are to:

- Mobilize leaders from all sectors to fuel African innovation;
- Promote innovation across Africa in key sectors of interest through the competition;
- Promote science, technology and engineering as rewarding, exciting and noble career options among the youth in Africa by profiling success applicants; and
- Encourage entrepreneurs, innovators, funding bodies and business development service providers to exchange ideas and explore innovative business opportunities.

Website: innovationPrizeForAfrica.org

World Summit Youth Award

The international contest for young people using the Internet and mobiles to take action on the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Website: www.youthaward.org

Grand Challenges Canada: Request for Proposals

Grand Challenges Canada is pleased to announce a new initiative in its Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health grand challenge. It's called Saving Brains. Its goal is to unlock potential in children and dramatically transform lives in the developing world. The money to fund this program comes from the Development Innovation Fund. In Budget 2008, the Government of Canada committed \$225 million CAD over five years to the Development Innovation Fund, to support the best minds in the world in a collaborative search for solutions to global health challenges. For the Request for Proposals:

Website: [http://www.grandchallenges.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Request for Proposals-Saving Brains EN.pdf](http://www.grandchallenges.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Request_for_Proposals-Saving_Brains_EN.pdf)

Zayad Future Energy Prize

The world is in desperate need of innovative solutions to create a new, sustainable energy future. No one knows who or where the next great energy solution will come from. Solutions and technologies that could change the world are being developed globally, and the \$2.2 million Zayed Future Energy Prize, managed by Masdar in Abu Dhabi, recognizes and rewards innovation, leadership, and long-term vision in renewable energy and sustainability.

Website: www.zayedfutureenergyprize.com/

Philips Liveable Cities Award

Philips is looking for individuals and community or non-government organizations and businesses with ideas for "simple solutions" that will improve people's health and well-being in a city to enter the Philips Liveable Cities Award. To help translate these ideas into reality, three Award grants totalling €125,000 are on the line. One overall winning idea from any of the three categories outlined below will receive a grant of €75,000, while the two additional ideas will receive grants of €25,000.

Website: <http://www.because.philips.com/livable-cities-award/about-the-award>

Piramal Foundation in India

Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

Website: www.piramalprize.org

Special Award for South-South Transfer

The aim of the award is to identify, provide visibility, and honour those who have successfully shared their projects and approaches internationally, thereby increasing the impact of the initiative. The winning practice receives US \$15,000 to further transfer the awarded practice to other communities in developing countries.

Website: www.southsouthexpo.org

South-South Experience Exchange Facility

Supported by Mexico, China, India, Denmark, Spain, The Netherlands, and the U.K. and now Colombia, the South-South Experience Exchange Facility is a multi-donor trust fund that promotes the idea that developing countries can learn from the successes of other developing countries in overcoming similar challenges. In the past 12 months, the trust has given out 35 grants to countries for learning activities ranging from working with at risk youth in the Caribbean to outsourcing IT services in Africa.

Website: www.southsouthcases.info

African Writers Fund

Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

Website: http://www.trustafrica.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=91&Itemid=90&lang=fr

Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme

Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

[Click here for more information](#)

or contact: namstct@vsnl.com, namstct@bol.net.in, apknam@gmail.com

PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana

The University of Ghana (www.ug.edu.gh) has been awarded a project support grant by the Alliance for a Green Revolution (www.agra-alliance.org) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

Website: www.acci.org.za/Default.asp?nav=Home&idno=10

Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition

Is a social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

Website: <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in/>

Weitzenegger's International Development Job Market

Website: www.weitzenegger.de/new/jobmarket.php

Global Knowledge Initiative

The Global Knowledge Initiative seeks to build global knowledge partnerships between individuals and institutions of higher education and research. It seeks to help partners access the global knowledge, technology, and human resources needed to sustain growth and achieve prosperity for all."

Website: www.globalknowledgeinitiative.org/

ExportHelp - Promoting and supporting access to the European market

The European Commission runs a database for the explicit support of market players in developing countries who want to bring their products to the EU market. The database gives an overview on the EU's preferential trade regimes established for developing countries as well as lists all tariffs, taxes and other requirements for goods imported into the EU.

Website: <http://exporthelp.europa.eu>

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects.

Website: www.devex.org

Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans

Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Africancareerguidance.com is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organization that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

Website: www.africancareerguidance.com

African Diaspora Skills Database

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

Website: www.diaspora-centre.org/NEWSLETTER/Database

Aid Workers Network (AWN)

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

Website: www.aidworkers.net

Bizzlounge

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

Website: <http://bizzlounge.com>

Business Action for Africa

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organizations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

Website: <http://businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com> .

Business Fights Poverty

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

Website: <http://businessfightspovetry.ning.com>

Business in Development Network (BiD)

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.

Website: www.bidnetwork.org

Zunia

By Development Exchange, it offers news, publications and networking opportunities with the world's development community.

Website: www.zunia.org

Catalogue of Poverty Networks

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organizations.

Website: www.undp-povertycentre.org/povnet.do

Connections for Development (CfD)

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organization committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organizations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest – collectively "our world".

Website: www.cfdnetwork.co.uk

Development Crossing

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

Website: www.developmentcrossing.com

DevelopmentAid.org

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.

Website: www.developmentaid.org

dgCommunities on the Development Gateway (Zunia.org)

Zunia.org, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

Website: <http://topics.developmentgateway.org>

Diaspora African Forum

This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.

Website: www.diasporaafrikanforum.org

Business Planet: a new data map on Entrepreneurship

Business Planet, an interactive Google map, now includes data on new business creation around the world.

Measures of entrepreneurial activity are based on the number of total and newly registered corporations. Click on colour markers to learn more about each country.

Website: <http://rru.worldbank.org/businessplanet/default.aspx?pid=8>